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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,065	06/20/2001	Yoshiaki Hirano	35.C15463	1688
5514	7590	10/16/2006	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			MILIA, MARK R.	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/884,065

Applicant(s)

HIRANO, YOSHIAKI

Examiner

Mark R. Milia

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2006.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-29 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-29 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 8/1/06 and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 16-29 are pending.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the current amendment to the claims and therefore new ground(s) of rejection will be made.

Applicant asserts, on pages 8-12, that neither Sato (US 6809834), Yamaguchi (US 6330374), nor Nakajima (US 5625466), alone or in combination, teach or suggest a transfer unit that "includes a third memory for storing the image data read from the first memory, and reads rotated image data from the third memory and transfers the rotated image data to the second memory without transferring the rotated image data to the first memory, or reads the image data, without rotation, from the third memory and transfers the read image data to the second memory without transferring the read image data to the first memory, depending on the print sheet". The examiner respectfully disagrees as Sato does disclose such a feature. Particularly, Sato discloses a first memory (image memory 7) that receives and stores image data (see column 2 lines 30-33), an engine

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unit having a second memory for storing the image data (buffers 31 and/or 32 located within plotter 2) that will be printed, and a third memory (page memory 8) that stores image data received from image memory "7" and along with a transfer unit (DMA controller 10) transfers the image data to a vertical/horizontal converting section "9" to be rotated, transfers the image data back to page memory "8", and then finally transfers the image data to plotter "2" (buffer 31 within plotter 2) or transfers the image data directly from page memory "8" to plotter "2" (buffer 31) (see column 2 lines 30-55, column 3 lines 21-60, and column 4 lines 25-44). Therefore, Sato anticipates the claims as currently set forth.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 16-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato (US 6809834).

Regarding claim 16, Sato discloses a printer comprising: a control unit having a first memory for storing image data generated based on print data received from an external apparatus (see Fig. 1 (7) and column 2 lines 30-33), and an engine unit having a second memory for storing the image data received from said control unit and a print engine for printing the image data stored in the second memory (see Fig. 1 (2), column

3 lines 48-61, and column 4 lines 25-44), wherein said control unit includes a transfer unit for transferring the image data read from the first memory to the second memory (see Fig. 1 (10) and column 2 lines 47-55), and wherein the transfer unit includes a third memory for storing the image data read from the first memory, and reads rotated image data from the third memory and transfers the rotated image data to the second memory without transferring the rotated image data to the first memory, or reads the image data, without rotation, from the third memory and transfers the read image data to the second memory without transferring the read image data to the first memory, depending on the print sheet (see Fig. 1 (8), column 2 lines 34-35, 47-55, and 61-64, column 3 lines 31-40, column 4 lines 52-59, and column 5 lines 4-20).

Regarding claim 19, Sato discloses a control method carried out in a printer that comprises a control unit having a first memory for storing image data generated based on print data received from an external apparatus, and an engine unit having a second memory for storing the image data received from the control unit and a print engine for printing the image data stored in the second memory (see Fig. 1, column 2 lines 30-33, column 3 lines 48-61, and column 4 lines 25-44) said method comprising: a storing step of storing the image data read from the first memory in a third memory (see column 2 lines 30-35), a controlling step of reading rotated image data from the third memory (see column 2 lines 40-55, column 3 lines 30-40, and column 5 lines 4-20), and transferring the rotated image data to the second memory without transferring the rotated image data to the first memory, or reading the image data, without rotation, from the third memory and transferring the read image data to the second memory without

transferring the read image data to the first memory, depending on the print sheet (see column 3 lines 30-40, column 4 lines 25-44 and 52-59, and column 5 lines 4-20).

Regarding claim 22, Sato discloses a printer comprising: a control unit having a first memory for storing image data generated based on print data received from an external apparatus (see Fig. 1 (7) and column 2 lines 30-33), and an engine unit having a second memory for storing the image data received from said control unit and a print engine for printing the image data stored in the second memory (see Fig. 1 (2), column 3 lines 48-61, and column 4 lines 25-44), wherein said control unit includes a transfer unit for transferring the image data read from the first memory to the second memory (see Fig. 1 (10) and column 2 lines 47-55), and wherein the transfer unit includes a third memory for storing the image data read from the first memory, and reads rotated image data from the third memory and transfers the rotated image data to the second memory without transferring the rotated image data to the first memory if printing is performed on a landscape print sheet, and reads the image data, without rotation, from the third memory and transfers the read image data to the second memory without transferring the read image data to the first memory if printing is performed on a portrait print sheet (see Fig. 1 (8), column 2 lines 34-35, 47-55, and 61-64, column 3 lines 31-40, column 4 lines 52-59, and column 5 lines 4-20).

Regarding claim 26, Sato discloses a control method carried out in a printer that comprises a control unit having a first memory for storing image data generated based on print data received from an external apparatus, and an engine unit having a second memory for storing the image data received from the control unit and a print engine for

printing the image data stored in the second memory (see Fig. 1, column 2 lines 30-33, column 3 lines 48-61, and column 4 lines 25-44), said method comprising: a storing step of storing the image data read from the first memory in a third memory (see column 2 lines 30-35), a transferring step of reading rotated image data from the third memory and transferring the rotated image data to the second memory without transferring the rotated image data to the first memory if printing is performed on a landscape print sheet, and reads the image data, without rotation, from the third memory and transferring the read image data to the second memory without transferring the read image data to the first memory if printing is performed on a portrait print sheet (see column 3 lines 30-40, column 4 lines 25-44 and 52-59, and column 5 lines 4-20).

Regarding claims 17, 20, 23, and 27, Sato further discloses a parallel interface for connecting said control unit and said engine unit to each other (see Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 18, 21, 24, and 28, Sato further discloses wherein the transfer unit includes a plurality of the third memories and wherein the transfer unit transfers one body of image data from one of the plurality of third memories to the second memory, while other image data from the first memory is stored in another of the plurality of third memories (see column 4 lines 25-44).

Regarding claims 25 and 29, Sato further discloses wherein said engine unit informs said control unit whether the rotation is required (see column 3 lines 31-40).

***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

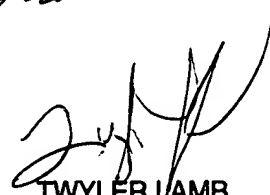
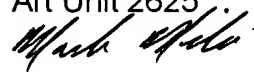
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached at (571) 272-7406. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MRM

Mark R. Milia  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2625



TWYLER LAMB  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER